

## R E M A R K S

In the above-identified Office Action the claims were rejected as being obvious in view of the disclosure of the newly cited Mitani patent when combined with the disclosure of the newly cited Lizumi patent. In response, each of the six independent claims of this application have been amended in a manner which is believed to add patentable distinctions to the claims as compared to the prior art, for the reasons given below.

Claim 25, as amended, includes a requirement for a conversion unit which converts document data into image data (S402), a division unit which divides the converted image data in a band unit (S403), a compression unit which compresses the divided image data (S404), and a calculation unit which calculates the size of the compressed image data (S405). Also, Claim 25 requires a discrimination unit that discriminates, based on the calculated size of the compressed image data, whether data of the N-th page and the (N+1)th page can be stored in a memory if these data are mixed and transmitted in a printing order (S406).

Claim 26 has been amended in a similar manner.

According to this claimed structure, the present invention realizes the technical advantages discussed in the Specification at page 9, lines 2-13, where it states:

"Since the order in which the data is transferred is changed depending on whether or not the data of 1 page can be stored on the memory of a printer, the buffer memory in the printer controller can be reduced to the smallest possible requirements of the printing page. Furthermore, for example, the printing can be performed without a faulty printing result although the data transfer speed from

the host computer is slow relative to the printing speed, or when the variable length compression is performed on the transfer data and the compression rate is not desired."

Referring now to the cited references, the Mitani patent discloses a printer which forms an image based on intermediate data stored in an intermediate buffer. If the intermediate buffer becomes short of necessary free memory, Mitani extends the band raster buffer to a full-raster state or deletes the cache buffer so as to reserve the intermediate buffer. Mitani, however, fails to disclose or suggest the compression unit, the calculation unit, or the (first) discrimination unit as claimed.

Further in this regard, the cited Lizumi patent does not overcome the deficiencies of Mitani as a rejecting reference, in that Lizumi merely discloses a printer that generates data in a band unit in each of a plurality of colors and prints data based on the generated data.

For these various reasons it is believed that independent Claims 25-30 are unconditionally allowable, wherefore the issuance of a Notice of an Allowance is solicited.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-3939.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to the below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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